Amendments to the Specification:

Please **replace** the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~A RESOURCE RESERVATION SCHEME FOR PATH RESTORATION~~
~~IN AN OPTICAL NETWORK~~

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ABSTRACT

A method for restoring a virtual path, provisioned between a source and a target node, in a mesh optical network is described. The method, in one embodiment, forwards a resource request in the network to identify an alternate route. Each node identifies and allocates resources for failed virtual path and the virtual path is provisioned using these resources. The constant update of nodal topology by each node <u>may provide</u> ~~allows~~ a fast identification of nodes with required bandwidth for failed virtual path.